

Claims

1. A device for cleaning contact lenses comprising a solution chamber (2) and a contact lens holder (3) adapted to receive one or more contact lenses, which holder, in use, is for insertion in the solution chamber (2), the holder (3) being adapted to permit fluid flow to the contact lens or lenses, wherein the apparatus further comprises means adapted to impart a reciprocating and vibrational motion to the contact lens holder (3) characterised in that the lens holder (3) comprises first and second baskets (34,36) each adapted to receive a contact lens, which lens has an inner and an outer surface, the first and second baskets being oriented such that, in use, the respective inner surfaces of the contact lenses are remote from one another, wherein in use, the means adapted to impart a reciprocating and vibrational motion to the contact lens holder (3) generates bubbles in a solution in the solution chamber (2), which bubbles contribute to fluid turbulence at a surface of the contact lens, thereby assisting in the cleaning of the lens.
2. A device according to Claim 1, wherein the reciprocating and vibrational motion operates in a frequency range of 10 to 100 Hz.
3. A device according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the means adapted to impart the reciprocating and vibrational motion comprises a motor (4), which motor (4) imparts a drive to an offset pin (10), which pin (10) is drivingly engaged in a slot (9) of a support arm (8), which support arm is positively connected to the lens holder (3), such that rotation of the off-set pin imparts said reciprocating and vibrational motion.
4. A device according to Claim 2 or Claim 3, wherein the frequency is 45 to 55 Hz
5. A method for cleaning contact lenses comprising inserting a contact lens holder (3) in a solution chamber (2), which solution chamber contains a cleaning liquid, the holder (3) being adapted to permit fluid flow to the contact lens or lenses, applying a simultaneous reciprocating and vibrational motion to the lens holder (3)

characterised in that the lens holder is provided with first and second baskets (34,36) each adapted to receive a contact lens, which lens has an inner and an outer surface, the first and second baskets being oriented such that, in use, the respective inner surfaces of the contact lenses are remote from one another, wherein the reciprocating and vibrational motion generates bubbles in the cleaning liquid, which bubbles contribute to fluid turbulence at a surface of the contact lens, thereby assisting in the cleaning of the lens.

6. A method according to Claim 5, characterised in that the cleaning solution has at least ten bubbles per 5ml of liquid at any one time.

7. A method according to Claim 5 or Claim 6, wherein the cleaning liquid is a contact lens cleaning fluid or saline solution.

8. A method according to any one of Claims 5 to 7, wherein the reciprocating-vibrational motion is applied for one minute, the device is turned off, and then the reciprocating-vibrational motion is applied for a further minute.